Promotion of foreign capital investment in retail sector

†184. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to approve the proposal regarding promoting foreign capital investment in retail market sector in the country;

(b) if so, the outlines of the said proposal;

(c) whether any assessment has been made of its ill effects on small traders in retail market after implementation of the said proposal; and

(d) if so, the number of small traders in the retail market in the country and how they are going to survive against the foreign capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) to (d) At present there is no proposal before the Government for decision on allowing FDI in the retail trade sector. However the matter is being widely discussed by all stakeholders.

Lifting of ban on onion export

185. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to lift the ban for export of onions; keeping in view the record production and storage of onions particularly in Maharashtra by benefiting the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) As per the extant EXIM Policy, the export of onions is free and is canalized through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), other State Trading Enterprises and authorized co-operative marketing institutions.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Manufacturing Sector's share in GDP

†186. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the target is being laid down to double the existing share of manufacturing sector in GDP; in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of manufacturing sector in GDP which has been fixed as per the target and by when it will be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) to (c) No target has been laid down to double the existing share of manufacturing in GDP. As per the Quick Estimates (QE) and Advanced Estimates (AE) of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the share of manufacturing sector GDP (at factor cost) increased from 17.0 percent (QE) in 2003-04 to 17.3 per cent (AE) in 2004-05.

Curbs on iron-ore exports

187. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to put curbs on iron-ore exports owing to its Increasing domestic demand;

(b) if so, the details of action plan;

(c) the amount of iron-ore exported during 2003-04; and

(d) how far the proposed action plan would help to enhance our earnings through value added iron products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.VK.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) There is no such proposal "under consideration at present.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.